

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: THE STORY OF LUCILLE BRUCE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and the American people today to address the high cost of prescription drugs. Over the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with many of my constituents to address this burdensome problem.

As a matter of fact, I conducted a study, which conclusively proves that senior citizens in Mississippi pay outrageous amounts of money for much needed prescription drugs. Let me illustrate this by highlighting the story of one of my constituents—Ms. Lucille Bruce.

Ms. Bruce lived in Federation Towers in Clinton, Mississippi. She enjoyed all the freedoms and dignities that should come with being a senior citizen. That is until the cost of her prescription medicine forced her to move in with her daughter. She pays \$200 a month for prescription medicine and has a fixed income. Ms. Bruce told me that without her daughter she would have no money to stay healthy. She wonders how many senior Americans there are that don't have the family support she receives. She often feels she is a burden on her daughter, and recent hospital visits may result in more prescribed medicine and costs.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no other issue that deserves being addressed more than the cost of medicine our senior citizens have to pay. That is why I cosponsored the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act. It is time to do right by our seniors and make them favored customers just like the large HMO's and Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, schedule this crucial issue today for floor debate and a vote. Folks like Ms. Bruce need us.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FAREWELL RECEPTION HONORING CHARLES N. DUNCAN

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, friends, family and co-workers will gather in the Indian Treaty Room at the White House to honor a Son of the South, a Native North Carolinian, Mr. Charles N. Duncan.

Charles is leaving his position as Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel. He will be greatly missed.

Since graduating from Howard University some two and a half decades ago, he has devoted his life to a career in public service and politics. Yet, Charles is more than a public servant. He is more than a political consultant as his resume presents him. He is an ordinary person who is special, and a special person who is ordinary. He has worked with those on

the lowest rungs of the ladder. He has sat with Presidents and served the homeless. More than anything else, Charles cares.

Mr. Speaker, Public service and politics requires the best and brightest, the most dedicated and committed, the cream of the crop, the pick of the pack, the faithful, the loyal, the steadfast. Charles Duncan has reflected those qualities in all that he has done, over the years. It is hard to imagine a Democratic Administration or a Democratic political campaign, without Charles in the picture.

He represents what is good about North Carolina and our Nation. He understands that little happens when one stands alone. He works to ensure that the families and children of America have a future that is worthy of our past. In his deeds, Charles has always made the right choice. The right choice between communities that are average and those that are exceptional. The right choice between individual comfort and functioning families.

Charles has taken his tasks and won them well, no matter how large or small. And while unselfishly giving of his time and energy, he has never neglected those things most important—family and church. It is rare these days, indeed, when we find a person of talent and humility, one who is capable and modest, common yet exceptional. The White House is losing a person with a ready smile, a friendly disposition, a concern for all. I do not know what Charles Duncan will do next, but if he returns home, the Nation's loss will be North Carolina's gain.

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE A. GOMER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Laurie A. Gomer, the Kentucky winner of the National 1999 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the contest. The theme this year was "My Service to America." Ms. Gomer's winning essay creatively depicts a flight attendant describing different aspect of American patriotism to passengers during a flight into America's future. Ms. Gomer succinctly describes four different citizen forums dealing with education, community activism, participation in elections and the exhibition of national pride.

Ms. Gomer is the daughter of Larry and Mary Ann Gomer of Franklin, Kentucky. She is a senior at Franklin-Simpson High School, who has been highly involved within numerous student organizations. This well-rounded young lady will be attending either Center College, Emory University, Vanderbilt University or Georgetown University in the fall with hopes of pursuing a career in Pediatrics.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is a National Audio/Essay Competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary became involved in assisting the National Asso-

ciation of Broadcasters in the 1950's and took over primary sponsorship in 1961.

The National Finals take place in Washington, D.C. when the finals judges listen to the fifty-four tapes representing winners from each of our fifty states, the District of Columbia, Pacific Areas, Latin America/Caribbean and Europe. This year's program involved more than 6,700 schools and 80,000 students participated while over 4,200 VFW Posts and over 3,400 Auxiliaries sponsored the program.

The VFW provides fifty-six fully-funded scholarships totaling \$132,000. The overall first-place winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship and all national finalists receive at least a \$1,000 scholarship. The total monetary value of scholarships, bonds, and awards provided by VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts, County Councils, Departments and National amount to over \$2.6 million this past year. Ms. Gomer is a recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ms. Gomer for her impressive achievement and wish her the best of luck in the future.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES EDUCATOR JEAN G. LARSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Jean G. Larson, Ed.D., a member of the Freehold Township Schools' Child Study Team. Dr. Larson will be retiring this month after serving our public school system for 30 years as a teacher and learning consultant.

Dr. Larson's colleagues describe her as a "constant and tireless advocate for the children and for good, effective teachers and teaching methods." She began her career as a reading teacher, and went on to work primarily with elementary school children who have learning and/or other disabilities. In addition, Dr. Larson assisted in curriculum development as a consultant to other teachers within the district.

For the last 27 years, Dr. Larson has been on staff at Freehold Township School District in several capacities. During that time, she received her doctorate in education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her commitment to the district and to her students has been complete and unwavering.

Teachers are our nation's greatest commodities because of their instrumental role in shaping the future of America. Skilled and dedicated educators like Dr. Larson make it possible for students to succeed and become productive, knowledgeable citizens.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Larson for her many achievements and for her contribution to the education of our children. I wish her well in future endeavors.